

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5395

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A T H R E E

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG
SUBJ: BELGRADE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE: PRELIMINARIES

1. NONALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB), ACTING AS
CONFERENCE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PC), FINISHED "90 PERCENT"
OF ITS WORK IN ONE SESSION JULY 22, CANCELLED THE SECOND
SESSION FOR THAT DAY AS WELL AS ONE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23,
AND EXPECTS TO FINISH ITS WORK IN ONE MORNING SESSION JULY 24.

2. OPENING THE JULY 22 SESSION, CHAIRMAN FERNANDO (SRI LANKA)
CALLED FOR GREATER NONALIGNED UNITY AND ADHERENCE TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF NONALINGMENT AS LAID DOWN IN A SECESSION OF
NAM MEETINGS. HE WELCOMED NON MEMBERS OF THE NACB AS
OBSERVERS AT ITS JULY 22 MEETING, EMPHASIZING THAT THE
BUREAU REPRESENTS ALL 86 COUNTRIES OF THE MOVEMENT AND MUST
MAINTAIN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH ALL.

3. PC THEN APPROVED A REPORT ON THE NACB'S ACTIVITIES SINCE
THE 1977 DELHI MEETING. PC NEXT APPROVED THE AGENDA FOR THE
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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL), LEAVING IT EXACTLY AS IT
HAD BEEN APPROVED JULY 14 IN NEW YORK. SRI LANKAN UN
MISSION COUNSELOR RODRIGO TOLD USUN OFFICER THAT THE
MALTESE HAD PROPOSED A "TROUBLESOME, SELF SERVING" ITEM
ON A "MEDITERRANEAN ZONE OF PEACE" AT THE JULY 22 SESSION
BUT HAD AGREED FINALLY TO INCLUDE IT UNDER THE EXISTING
ITEM ON EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. MOROCCO, REPORTS

THE OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV NEWS SERVICE TANJUG, ATTEMPTED BUT AGAIN FAILED TO REMOVE THE QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA FROM THE AGENDA. RODRIGO SAID THAT SOMALIA HAD MADE A HALF HEARTED ATTEMPT TO RAISE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION BUT HAD RETREATED QUICKLY UNDER THE DETERMINED GAVEL OF CHAIRMAN FERNANDO. REGARDING NEW MEMBERS, BOLIVIA WITHDREW ITS APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP (WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, WOULD HAVE BEEN REJECTED HAD IT BEEN PRESSED) BECAUSE OF "THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE JUST TAKEN PLACE IN BOLIVIA" (TANJUG). COSTA RICA'S APPLICATION WAS ALSO DROPPED BECAUSE NO WRITTEN REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED. GUEST STATUS FOR PAKISTAN WAS APPROVED.

4. OF MOST INTEREST, RODRIGO SAID (AND OTHERS HAVE CONFIRMED) THAT THE PC DID NOT AND WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION--THAT IS TO BE LEFT TO MINISTERS. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT AN "AMENDED" DRAFT DECLARATION WILL BE ISSUED BY THE YUGOSLAVS ON JULY 24, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING THE BEHIND THE SCENES DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE LAST SIX WEEKS. (IN THAT CONNECTION, CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ARRIVED JULY 22 AND ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE PAID A WHISTLESTOP VISIT TO BELGRADE JULY 22-23).

5. THE FINAL PC SESSION ON JULY 24 IS EXPECTED ONLY TO PICK OFFICERS FOR THE CONFERENCE. RODRIGO SAID THAT
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INDIA REMAINED THE CLEAR FRONT RUNNER FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITH "A LATIN" THE PROBABLE CHOICE TO HEAD THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

6. NACB: RODRIGO (WHO SERVES AS STAFF COORDINATOR FOR THE NACB IN NEW YORK) SAID THAT CHANGES IN THE BUREAU COULD ONLY BE MADE AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL, (HAVANA IN 1979), SINCE THE NACB WAS A CREATION OF THE LAST SUMMIT. BELGRADE COULD, HOWEVER, DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. NO DELEGATE ENCOUNTERED HERE YET EXPECTS ANY SERIOUS PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE THE BUREAU. THE IDEA OF A ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP IS FLOATING, BUT BARELY. A RECOMMENDATION TO ENLARGE THE BUREAU IS A STRONGER POSSIBILITY.

7. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM RODRIGO'S ATTITUDE AND FERNANDO'S SPEECH, THE SRI LANKANS APPEAR STUNG BY RECENT CRITICISMS WITHIN THE NAM THAT THE NACB HAS BECOME "UNDEMOCRATIC" OR "UNBALANCED." THEY INSIST THAT THEIR OWN CONDUCT AS CHAIRMAN REMAINS IMPECCABLE BALANCED; ANY CRITICISMS OF "UNBALANCED" BEHAVIOR HAVE ARISEN, THEY NOTE, ONLY SINCE THE HAVANA NACB MINISTERIAL. WE SURMISE

THAT ONE FACTOR IN SRI LANKA'S PRESENT REFUSAL TO ALLOW
ANY DIVISIVENESS WHATSOEVER TO PERSIST IN THE PC MAY BE
THEIR WISH TO REFURBISH THE IMAGE, LATELY TARNISHED, OF
THE NACB AS A COORDINATING BODY ONLY, CLEARLY SUBSERVIENT
TO THE PLENARY, AND KNOWING ITS PLACE. (THIS IS, OF
COURSE, CLEARLY THE YUGOSLAV VIEW OF THE PROPER NACB
ROLE AS WELL.)
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